MARY A. TODD
(SPURIOUS SIGNATURE)

DRAWER 2 MARY TODD LINCOLN - 10 TH

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Mary Todd Lincoln

Mary A. Todd Signature

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085 0441R

7635 Washington Blvd.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

February 19, 1968

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
1301 S. Harrison
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Dr. Stewart McClelland has suggested that you might be interested in an item of Lincolniana which has been in our family for many years.

A Xerox copy of the signature and inscription on the frontispiece of a book which once belonged to Mary A. Todd (Lincoln) is enclosed. The book is titled "A View of Mexico and South America" and was published in 1827. It was given to Mary A. Todd by her grandmother in 1828, when Mary was 10 years old. Dr. McClelland has established the authenticity of the signature of Mary A. Todd. (This may be one of her earliest preserved signatures.)

We also have two other books with the signature of David Todd, one of Mary's half brothers, published 1811 and 1813.

If you are interested in seeing the book (s), you may call us any time you are in Indianapolis - 251-7112 - and a meeting can be arranged.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Sutherland
(Mrs James T)

Mary A Todd's Book a present from her affectionate Grandmother August 23d 1828. She died the last day of August 1828

SIMON BOLIVAR.

A

VIEW

OF

SOUTH AMERICA

AND

MEXICO,

COMPRISING

THEIR HISTORY, THE POLITICAL CONDITION, GEOGRAPHY, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, &C. OF THE REPUBLICS OF MEXICO, GUATEMALA, COLOMBIA, PERU, THE UNITED PROVINCES OF SOUTH AMERICA AND CHILI, WITH A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE REVOLUTION, IN EACH OF THESE

INDEPENDENT STATES.

BY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

TWO VOLUMES IN ONE.

VOL. I.

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED FOR SUBSCRIBERS.

.....

1827.

PSALMS

CAREFULLY SUITED

TO THE

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

IN

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

BEING

AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE OLD VERSIONS

OF

THE PSALMS OF DAVID.

All things written in the laws of Moses, and the Prophets, and the Psalms, concerning Me, must be fulfilled.

BROOKLYN:

PRINTED BY THOMAS KIRK, FOR

Robert M'Dermut, Samuel A. Burtis, John Tiebout, and Wm. Myers, New-York, and Wm. Tuttle, Newark.

1811.

David Todd

CHRISTIAN RESEARCHES

IN

ASIA:

WITH NOTICES

ON THE

TRANSLATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

INTO THE

Oriental Languages.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

THE STAR IN THE EAST,

A Sermon, preached in the Parish Church of St. James, Bristol, on Sunday, February 26, 1809.

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

Containing an account of 200,000 Christians discovered in the sequestered region of Hindostan.

BY THE

REV. CLAUDIUS BUCHANAN, D. D.

Late Vice-Provost of the College of Fort-William, in Bengal.

LEXINGTON, K.

PRINTED AND SOLD BY THOMAS T. SKILLMAN,

OPPOSITE THE POST-OFFICE, MAIN STREET.

1811.

Sutherland

February 23, 1968

Mrs. James T. Sutherland
7635 Washington Blvd.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Dear Mrs. Sutherland:

I have your letter of February 19th. My delay in answering you is due to my speaking tour to twenty different cities.

Your book A View of Mexico and South America bearing the signature of Mary A. Todd (Lincoln) is most interesting. I am glad that Dr. Stewart W. McClelland gave you my name.

I would like very much to examine your book. However, I fear I will not be in Indianapolis for several weeks. I often visit with the McClellands. I am also interested in the books with David Todd's signature.

Will you set a price on these items so that I can consider their pruchase? We have a policy not to appraise items that we wish to purchase.

Please let me hear again from you telling me how much you wish to receive for these books.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cmvr

7635 Washington Blvd.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

February 26, 1968

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Thank you for your reply to my letter concerning the Mary A. Todd (Lincoln) book and the David Todd books.

I am sorry that I cannot set a price on these books at this time. I am totally unfamiliar with the value of such items and I am not certain how to proceed in obtaining an appraisal. Dr. McClelland can no doubt recommend a source for appraisal but he is out of the city at this time. When he returns I shall contact him and will be in touch with you again as soon as I have something constructive to report. Dr. McClelland did say that he personally would not have any idea of the value of the books.

If, in the meantime, you have occasion to be in Indianapolis, please feel free to call and arrange to examine the books.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Sutherland
(Mrs James T.)

7635 Washington Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

March 8, 1969

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

About a year ago I wrote to you about some items of Lincolniana of interest to collectors. These items are:

A book bearing the early signature of Mary A. Todd (Lincoln).
Two books bearing the signature of David Todd.

You indicated an interest in the purchase of these books and asked me to establish a basis of their worth. This I have attempted to do, with the assistance of Dr. Stewart McClelland.

Dr. McClelland had an offer of $500.00, which he thought to be low and recommended that the offer be declined.

My husband feels that the Mary A. Todd book should be worth a minimum of $700.00 and the other two $150.00 each. I should like to keep (for sentiment) the small prayer book, but the other David Todd book you may have for the price named.

I am enclosing Xerox copies of the books, the originals of which you may examine any time at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Sutherland
(Mrs James T.)

March 11, 1969

Mrs. James T. Sutherland
7635 Washington Blvd.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Dear Mrs. Sutherland:

I have your letter of March 8th and I am glad that you have placed a price on the three authographed books in your possession.

Our interest is only in the Mary Todd book. There is a possibility that I might be able to get the executives of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company to purchase the Mary Todd book for $500. I feel sure that they would not agree on a higher price and I cannot guarantee that they would approve a $500 expenditure.

Why not try to sell it to some other institution or collector for a higher price and if it still does not sell, I would be glad to bring the book to the attention of the executives of the company with a price tag of $500.

If you should offer the Mary Todd book at $500, I would like to know something of its history over the years after it ceased to be the property of the future Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cmvr

7635 Washington Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

March 29, 1969

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Thank you for your letter of March 11th concerning the Mary Todd (Lincoln) book.

While I am sure the book is worth more than $500, if the right collector could be contacted, I have no knowledge of how to proceed to make such contact and, therefore, I am willing to sell it to your company for that amount, pending approval of the executives of your institution.

The history of the book is part of the Sutherland family history. The first John Sutherland in Indiana settled here in 1821 on property deeded by a land grant signed by President Monroe. His wife, Jane Brown, came as a bride from Kentucky, as did her sister, Margaret Brown Sprole. The book was among the latter's effects inherited by the Sutherlands and rested many years in the attic of the James A. Sutherland home at 2636 Sutherland Avenue. In moving from the family home to our current home, the book was re-discovered and brought with us, where it rested in a drawer for another seven years. Mr. James T. Sutherland, my husband, is the 5th generation only-son descendant of the first John Sutherland.

I hope to hear from you soon regarding your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Sutherland
(Mrs James T.)

April 1, 1969

Mrs. James T. Sutherland
7635 Washington Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Dear Mrs. Sutherland:

I have your letter of March 29th and I am glad that you have decided to sell the Mary Todd book for $500 to our Lincoln Library-Museum *provided I can get the purchased approval.*

It has occurred to me that I could better accomplish my request for approval if I had the book to show the Vice President who has the Library-Museum under his jurisdiction. Can you send it to me by registered mail? We will pay all expenses of shipment (both ways) if I am turned down. I belive, however, they will accept it if I have the book to show the Vice President. At the present time he is in Texas but will likely be in the home office next Monday.

I was glad to have something of the history of the book as was outlined in your letter of March 29th.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cmvr

April 1, 1969

Dr. Stewart W. McClelland
730 Braeside Court
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

Dear Stewart:

I have been corresponding with Mrs. James T. Sutherland about her books bearing the signature of Mary A. Todd and David Todd. She agreed to take $500 for the book bearing the signature of Mary A. Todd. I was about ready to negotiate a deal. However, before taking the final step, I did a little research.

Mrs. Lincoln's name was Mary Ann But her middle name was dropped when her sister Ann Maria was born in 1824. So the "Mary A." signature appeared O.K. except the signature is dated March 23, 1828 four years after the birth of Ann Maria.

Under the frontpiece is the statement "...a present from her affectionate grand mother August 23, 1828. She died the last day of August, 1828." Now to find the grandmother was my next objective.

I think Mrs. Lincoln was very close to her maternal grandmother the Widow Parker, but she died January 26, 1850. Robert S. Todd's mother was named Jane Briggs. Robert's father, Levi Todd, married her on February 25, 1779 (some say September 25, 1779) in Lincoln county. Eleven children were born. Robert S. was the seventh child. Jane Briggs Todd died in 1803, fifteen years before Mary Todd was born. So this eliminates the two grandmothers.

David H. Todd who supposedly signed the two books was Mrs. Lincoln's half-brother (the son of Robert S. and Elizabeth Humphreys Todd). He was born in 1832. Perhaps he wasn't signing his name in books until he was at least ten years old (1842). So why should he sign a book published in 1811 and one published in 1813.

If I had been asked to make a quick judgmentas to whether or not these books were actually the property of Mrs. Lincoln and her half-brother, I would have said "yes." After doing this research, I will have to say "no."

Too bad for Mrs. Sutherland. I would have liked to have purchased such a book if it had been authentic.

Give my best to Ann.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cmvr

Its name indicates its character

The Lincoln National Life Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

R. Gerald McMurtry
Director

April 3, 1969

Mrs. James T. Sutherland
7635 Washington Blvd.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Dear Mrs. Sutherland:

As I told you over the telephone earlier this week, I have been doing some research on Mary Todd Lincoln and her brother David. I will give you the result of my findings.

Mrs. Lincoln's name was Mary Ann but her middle name was dropped when her sister Ann Maria was born in 1824. So the Mary A. Todd signature appears to be all right except for the fact that it is dated March 23, 1828 four years after the birth of Ann Maria.

Under the frontpiece of your book is the statement "...a present from her affectionate Grand Mother August 23, 1828. She died the last day of August, 1828." My next objective was to find the grandmother who died in August, 1828.

I think Mrs. Lincoln was very close to her maternal grandmother the Widow Parker, but she died January 26, 1850. Robert Smith Todd's (Mary's father) mother was named Jane Briggs. Robert's father, Levi Todd, married Jane Briggs on February 25, 1779 (some say September 25, 1779) in Lincoln County, Kentucky. Eleven children were born. Robert Smith was the seventh child. Jane Briggs Todd died in 1803, fifteen years before Mary Todd was born. So this eliminates the two grandmothers.

David (H.) who supposedly signed the two books was Mrs. Lincoln's half-brother (the son of Robert S. and Elizabeth Humphreys Todd). He was born in 1832. Perhaps he wasn't signing his name in books until he was at least ten years old (1842). Why would he sign two books published in 1811 and 1813? Of course, such is possible.

If I had been asked to make a quick judgment as to whether or not these books were actually the property of Mrs. Lincoln and her half-brother, I would have said "yes." However, after doing this research, I will have to say "no."

I regret the results of my research. I would have liked to have purchased a book belonging to Mary Todd and I know that you would have liked to receive a check for $500. However, the way things have turned out we will not want to make the purchase.

Thanking you for bringing this matter to our attention, I remain

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cmvr

Mary Ann Todd (wife of Lincoln)

Born December 13, 1818 at Lexington, Ky.
married November 4, 1842 at Springfield Ill.
Died July 16, 1882 at Springfield, Ill.
Parents {Robert S. Todd / Eliza Parker Todd}

Signature in book August 23, 1828

Near 10th birthday
age 5 = entered academy of Dr. Johnson, Lexington

David H. Todd - half-brother Born 1832

Parents - Robert S. Todd
Betsy Humphreys Todd.

David H. Married - Mary Williamson
(one child born to the couple)

Joined Confederate Army
Seriously wounded at Vicksburg - died of wounds a few years after war.

On December 13, 1818, a third daughter arrived at the Short Street residence, and the newcomer was given the name of Mary Ann, for Mrs Todd's only sister

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Little Mary was delighted when a baby sister came in 1824 named Ann Maria. And now, with two "Anns" in the family, Mary's middle name was dropped from ordinary use to avoid confusion.

Townsend page 51+52